

2008 Award Winner



Professional Forester of the Year – Shannon Janzen, RPF

Competent, intelligent, professional, knowledgeable, fair-minded and committed are some of the many flattering words used by peers to describe Shannon Janzen, RPF. She is the recipient of the Association of BC Forest Professional's 2008 Professional Forester of the Year Award. Shannon is recognized, in large part, due to her work on the development and implementation of Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) in BC's Central Coast. EBM is an adaptive approach to managing human activities that seeks to ensure the coexistence of healthy, fully functioning ecosystems and human communities¹.

From 2004 to 2006, Shannon was responsible for leading and coordinating the development of EBM policies and practices as the EBM implementation manager with the Coast Forest Conservation Initiative (CFCI) in conjunction with a team of multi-disciplinary specialists.

Her journey in forest management began in 1993 as she watched the media coverage related to controversial logging of old-growth forest in Clayoquot Sound. She wondered whether she was getting the full picture of the issue and sought out the advice and knowledge of professional biologist and forester, Allen Banner. Shannon began to see forestry issues as multi-dimensional and decided on her career. In 1998, she received a bachelors degree in forestry from the University of Northern British Columbia and became a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) in 2000.

When asked how she feels about winning the award, Shannon contends that she is extremely honoured. "This award is directed towards my efforts in implementing EBM along with a team of forest professionals and in partnership with environmental groups. It illustrates that while there can be an abundance of conflicting viewpoints, it is still possible to find common ground."

Today, Shannon no longer works for CFCI but is a strategic planning forester with Western Forest Products Inc. She is still committed to EBM and retains the willingness to adapt, learn and lead that positively impacted her past work. As for the future of BC's forest sector, she says that despite current challenges, there are many avenues that professionals can explore in order improve the current

¹ Coast Information Team (CIT). 2001. <http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/citbc/ebm.html>

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situation. “It seems that hardly a day goes by without another mill closure or production curtailment”, says Shannon. “Despite all of this and the mountain pine beetle epidemic, there are opportunities to capitalize on the sector’s carbon friendly niche, increase First Nations involvement and possibly secure longer-term tenures. With some innovative thinking along with progressive and transformative action, I still see a promising future for the BC forest sector.”